

Library's one gem that's worth its weight in gold

Soon after retirement last year, I found a gem here in York County. It was in plain sight, right on the edge of Route 17, and it made my taxpayer heart glad. Yes, I believe that our county library is a gem for which we taxpayers are getting our money's worth.

Located on donated land near York High, certainly the library is not conveniently located for everyone, but there's good news. The most recent newsletter from Friends of the Library mentions the strong possibility of a branch library soon. South York, the area between the Poquoson River at Harwood Mill and our border with the City of Poquoson, seems to be the target area. Interestingly, the Route 17 library service began in the very same way. Ten years from now maybe the South York library will have grown to be the main library facility and the Route 17 unit, the branch!

That new facility ought to help with at least two problems. For one thing, it will reduce the number of cars traveling the full length of Route 17 to get to a library. The other is overcrowding in the library's parking lot. Whenever there is a large group using the meeting room, library clients have difficulty finding a parking space.

That meeting room is very popular. Just in the first three months this year, of the 87 days the library was open, the room was in use 72 days. Chief Librarian Beverly Dudley tells me that, unfortunately, all requests for the room can't be accommodated because of overlapping and conflicting times and places.

After I became a volunteer, I discovered the great variety of materials and information available in our library. In addition to books and periodicals, you can check out videotapes of classical films, educational subjects and "non-feature" titles. Feature titles are available to members of the "Video Club" (a small membership fee is required) as well. Large-print books and book cassette tapes are also available for checking out by all library clients. For the investor the reference section has such sources as the Value Line Ratings and Reports, Standard and Poor's "Outlook" and the Donoghue Moneyletter.

The computer in the main room is a gift from the Friends of the Library. Initially, that organization played a special role in getting the library service



Viewpoint

By Joe Taylor

moved into a permanent facility. Now, the group uses contributions, annual dues from members and profits from its annual book sale to make special purchases for the library.

Of course, primary funding for the library comes from Richmond and our local taxes. I understand, though, that income from fines and the copy-machine together generate a total of approximately \$2,000 per month. Isn't it nice to know that the library generates some income for the county's general fund?

To man this operation, Dudley has a paid staff of full-time and part-time people and student pages. She tells me that volunteers have been of immense help in carding the returned materials and getting the returns back on the shelves. While the volunteers are hard at work, so is the work of computerizing the library client list and all of the materials on the shelves. As I understand it, all of the other Peninsula libraries are computerized now and ours will be this year or early next year. Dudley tells me, then, that all clients will get new ID cards, but that the present card files will be kept for those who prefer to use them instead of the computer system. In any event, the library operation will become less labor-intensive once the computerization is complete.

Meanwhile, there is a special need for volunteers during evenings and on weekends. Janice Ward, coordinator of the volunteers, gave me a tour behind the scenes and explained the various tasks for volunteers. She made it clear that my preferences as to task assignments were important and that, if I wanted to try different activities, she would arrange it. Of course, I chose the days and times for my work.

Why not call 898-0077/0078 and enlist as a library volunteer? I think you'll like it; I have.

York Town Crier, April 4, 1990, p. 4.



Fruits of their labors

York Town Crier photo by Nan Brown Maxwell

From left, Lois Bates, Sue Rohrbach and Anne Cipriano hold one of the quilts on display at the quilt show held at the York County Public Library Saturday. They are members of the Library Quilting Bee, a group that meets at the library on Wednesdays to make quilt squares. Among quilts on exhibit was one worked by a man from Missouri in 1859. Its red and white components were intact; the blues had faded from the green pieces, leaving them pale yellow

CITY

York County/Poquoson Neighbors, March 28, 1990

7



Weaving a story

Children watch attentively as Betsy Mountcastle fills her stories with movement and expression. "The Story Weaver" brought her storytelling magic to the York Public Library on March 17 in a program sponsored by the Yorktown Arts Foundation and York County Public Schools. "Today there is a real need for children to hear storytelling. With our overscheduled lives and constant entertainment, children don't have time to use their imaginations. Through storytelling I can spark that creativity in children," says Mountcastle. She is also an artist in residency at Yorktown and Waller Mill elementary schools for a storytelling program in which she works with fifth-graders. Future storytelling sessions by Mountcastle will take place at the York Public Library at 10:30 a.m. March 31 and April 7, and at 2 p.m. April 8.

'Stars' to shine at York library

By Beth Melsner
Town Crier Staff

The York County Public Library is putting on a "Night of a Thousand Stars" on Wednesday, April 2, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The evening is part of the national celebration of Library Week and will feature family oriented reading by well-known members of the community and refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library.

Each guest will read a portion of a favorite book, some of which are geared to the younger set, some to adults. Few specific times have been scheduled, but these community members will be sharing selections from these books during the two hour program:

- Dr. Judith Ball, superintendent of York County Public Schools, "Looking to the side, and back," from *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens*; *Womanist Prose*, by Alice Walker;

- Delegate Shirley Cooper, D-96, selections from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, by C. S. Lewis;

- Margaret Cubberly, free-lance writer for the York Town Crier, a story from *The Martian Chronicles*, by Ray Bradbury;

- Jean Ann Fox, consumer advocate and member of the Consumer Union Board, "How the Elephant Got His Trunk," from *Just So Stories*, by Rudyard Kipling;

- James Funk, chairman of the York County Board of Supervisors, excerpts from the forward and postscript of *Death Be Not Proud*, by John Gunther;

- Tony Gabriele, Daily Press columnist, two columns from the *Rescue of Miss Yaskell*, by Russell Baker;

- Joan McCormick, York Town Crier columnist and author of two cookbooks, short poems from *If I Were in Charge of the World*, by Judith Viorst and a column of her own which appears in *Take One Egg and Crack Up*;

- Al Meadows, manager of Farm Fresh at Heritage Square Shopping



York Town Crier photo by Beth Melsner

Judith Ball, school superintendent
She shared a library book with YES fifth graders

- Center, selections from *Henry Huggins*, by Beverly Cleary;

- Helen Myers, York Town Crier columnist, reading from her own work, *Memories*;

- Velma Scaife, Channel 13 news reporter, a chapter of *Motherhood—the Second Oldest Profession*, by Erma Bombeck;

- Daniel Stuck, York County administrator, selections from *Voyage One, 1583*, from *Chesapeake*, by James Michener;

- Michael Tylavsky, principal of Tabb High School, a chapter from *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, by Robert Fulghum.



York Town Crier photo by Nan Brown Maxwell

Friends of the Library get their just desserts

The library honored them with a luncheon recently; all volunteers were invited

Library volunteers honored at luncheon

The Friends of the York County Public Library held their 13th annual spring luncheon April 10 at the library to recognize library volunteers. Tony Gabriele, columnist for the Daily Press, was the guest speaker. Jim Funk, chairman of the York County Board of Supervisors, commended the volunteers for their service to the library.

Volunteers honored were Alfred Armstrong, Nan Ayer, Lou Ayers, Dorothy Brigman, Dianne Brown, Mary Ann Browne, Lou Canady, Virginia Cervi, Norma Colton, William Colton, Virginia Cullop, Elizabeth Davis, Charlotte Deadwyler, Robert N. Desmarais, Martha Dowling, Catharine Ensley, Jo Anne Foudriat, Margaret Freeman,

Louise Gallagher, George Jones, Marie Jones, Edna Lishman, Bill Livingston, Jim McNulty, Peg McNulty, Patricia Mosely, Jean Smith, Augusta Snyder, Clare Stiff, Joseph Taylor, Rilla Terry, Alice Thurston, and Dayton D. Ward.

Library staff honored were Anne Cipriano, Norma Colton, Tess Donadio, Beverly Dudley, Patricia Huck, Sherry Inabinet, Mary Lanzendorf, Beth Martin, Suzanne Erena, Linda Freeman, Brenda Gomez, Valerie Hill, Elizabeth Pessagno, Ethel Peterson and Janice Ward.

Friends Co-President June Smoot expressed special recognition to those volunteers with 100 or more hours of service. They were Nan Ayer, 366 hours; Clare

Stiff, 233 hours; Norma Colton, 184 hours; William Colton, 184 hours; Catharine Ensley, 169 hours; Alice Thurston, 136 hours; Martha Dowling, 117 hours; Bill Livingston, 116 hours; Jean Smith, 108 hours; and Louise Gallagher, 101 hours.

Past president Gene Cervi recognized Volunteers of the Year, Jack and June Smoot, with a Jefferson pewter cup.

The Friends officers for 1990-91 are Nan Ayer, president; Gail Robertson, first vice-president; Beth Carey, second vice-president; Nora Thompson, treasurer; Virginia Cervi, corresponding secretary; June Smoot, recording secretary.



SCOTT KINGSLEY / Staff photographer

Top volunteers

Jack and June Smoot accept their Volunteers-of-the-Year award from Friends of the York County Library. The award, a Jefferson cup, was presented at a recent luncheon given annually by the Friends of the Library to show their appreciation of the volunteers. June Smoot is also the president of the Friends of the York County Library.

4/10/90

DYNIX TEAM

NOV. 1990



Christmas 1990





In *Town Crier* Circulation

By Elizabeth Pessagno
Reference Librarian

Middle East books available at library

Now that the gulf war is over, spend some time expanding your knowledge of the area -- its religion, people and history. Find out the forces that have shaped today's Middle East and what the region faces in the years to come.

The library's collection on the Mid-East has a number of basic books concerning the region. The area handbook series published by the Library of Congress is a good example of these. Coverage of each country includes discussions and descriptions of its people and their beliefs, politics, economics and culture. This series includes most of the countries in the Mid-East. Another sort of basic book is "Islam: A Primer," which concentrates on the origins and the beliefs of the Muslim world.

For an historical perspective, read "A Peace to End All Peace" by David Fromkin that covers the years 1914-1922. Fromkin asserts that the Middle East, as we know it today, is a result of decisions made by the Allies during and after World War I.

For a modern focus, try one or more of these titles: "Understanding the Arab World" by Louis Bahjat Hamada, "The Saudis" by Sandra Mackey, "The Reign of the Ayatollahs" by Shaul Bakhash, "Republic of Fear" by Sami al-Khalil, "Saddam Hussein and the Crisis in the Gulf" by Judith Miller and Louise Myliole and "Their Promised Land" by Marcia Kunstel and Joseph Albright.

*Yorktown
Crier*

3/20/91

York library to close three days

The York County Public Library will be closed Wednesday through Friday, April 3, 4 and 5 so staff and volunteers can barcode the book collection. This is part of the preparation necessary in order to automate many of the library activities, which will begin in the late summer or early fall. The library will re-open with regular hours beginning 10 a.m. Saturday, April 5.

In conjunction with the closing, there will be a fine amnesty (no fines charged) for all materials returned during the five days from April 1 through April 5.

County library closes temporarily

The York County Public Library will be closed Wednesday through Friday, April 3 to 5 so staff and volunteers can barcode the book collection in order to automate many of the library's activities. The library will re-open with regular hours beginning 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 5.

In conjunction with the closing, there will be a fine amnesty (no fines charged) for all materials returned through April 5.

York Town Crier 4/3/91

York Town Crier 4/17/91

York Comm



York Town Crier photo by Lois Chesley

Establishing the code

Charlotte Deadwyler, standing, a volunteer at the York County Library, helps Tess Donadio of the library staff apply bar codes to books on the library shelves. The system of automation will allow for a more accurate, easier and quicker check-out system as well as enhance the reservation procedures.





Earthly books among library's collection

By Elizabeth Pessagno

The environmental movement really began with the publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962). This warning on the indiscriminate use of pesticides focused attention on the contamination of soil, water and food and on the effects of these chemicals on the human body. Since this landmark publication, environmental awareness has become a permanent part of our lives.

Out of the many books which have been published on this subject since *Silent Spring*, I'd like to highlight a few from the shelves of the York County Public Library.

Philosophers of the Earth (1972) by Anne Chisolm is subtitled "Conversations with Ecologists" which is what this book really is -- a series of interviews with

leading ecologists of the 1960's and early 1970's. As Chisolm writes in the forward, her aim is to let some of those people who formed ecology explain what it is.

Bill McKibben's *The End of Nature* (1989) discusses the greenhouse effect, the depletion of the ozone layer, acid rain and a number of other ecological ills; then offers suggestions on how to change our behavior to that these ills can be eased.

Whatever Happened to Ecology? (1989) by Stephanie Mills is a "memoir" of her personal response to the environmental crisis. The first part of the book traces her involvement with a number of environmental publications and organizations. The second discusses her move to rural northern Michigan where she began to practice the

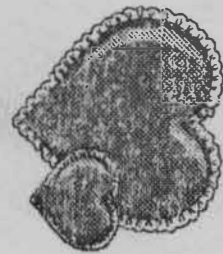
ecological theories she had preached

"Green consumers" and "buying green" are catch phrases for buying environmentally safe products. Two books advocating this are *The Green Pages* (1990) from the Bennett information Group and *The Green Consumer* (1990) by John Elkington, Julian Hailes and Joel Makower. As well as being buying guides for environmentally safe products, they emphasize the three R's of environmentalism -- reuse, recycle and be resourceful.

Environmental concerns are a permanent part of our lives now. There's no quick solution to the problems, but each of us can make decisions daily which directly affect our environment -- let's make the right ones.

Over 4/24/99

Meet Local
Romantic Authors



Jeanne Abbott

Pat Bucheister

Georgina Devon

Wendy Garrett

Elizabeth Ann Michaels

Sunday, May 19
at 2 P. M.

York County
Public Library

8500

George Washington
Memorial Highway

Call 898-0077
for information.

Daily Press 5-1-91

Rash of vandalism hits county

Dee Brigman wasn't happy about the \$325 spent to get her car's rear window replaced after vandals shot it out. "When I walked outside and saw my car, I wanted to cry," she says.

A volunteer at the York County Public Library, Brigman says the incident happened shortly after she arrived for her shift at the library. After her shift, she drove home with the window taped.

The library has recently been the target of a rash of vandalism in York County. "It's kids who don't have anything else to do," says Tess Donadio, a library volunteer/worker.

Vandalism on April 8 was the latest occurrence, in which nacho chips and crackers were strewn over the library grounds and its parking lot, an outside light was broken and the library bicycle rack was hoisted up the flag pole. "That took a little effort," says Beverly Dudley, the library director.

Dudley says in the five years the library has been located at 8500 George Washington Highway in Yorktown, many "ordinary" acts of vandalism have occurred, such as drinks and cigarettes being left on cars or in the parking lot. But as far as she is concerned, the April 8 incident was the worst.

York County Sheriff Preston

Williams says the problem is occurring everywhere. "There's vandalism all over this county and I have never seen it worse."

Williams says in the past year, citizen complaints have escalated. Garage doors and gardens have been sprayed with paint, eggs thrown and numerous mailboxes bashed. "Very few days, we don't have complaints of vandalism. I don't know what it's going to take to stop it," he says.

Capt. Ron Montgomery says there are "literally hundreds of complaints a year."

Montgomery adds it isn't unusual to get reports of 20 or 30 mailboxes smashed or vandalized a night. Other common acts of vandalism include spraying paint on school buildings, and breaking and shooting windows out of school and business windows. Vandals scratch automobiles, slash tires and break car windows, as well, he says.

Deputy Mark Medford of the county sheriff's department attributes part of the problem to longer days and nice weather. "When the sun stays out, people do too. The first warm weather we get, the kids go crazy," he says.

When schools let out for the summer, the problems intensifies even more, he adds.

Medford suggests leaving on

outdoor lights and installing spotlights to light dark areas around property. If someone suspicious is spotted, York County residents should try to get a license plate number and description of the person and call 911.

If vandalism occurs, the incidents should be reported so patrol can be stepped-up. "I think that a lot of vandalism goes by without us even knowing about it," says Medford.

He also suggests questioning children's behavior and whereabouts if they are out late. Often, parents are surprised to learn it was their child causing neighborhood damage, he says.

Neighborhood watch programs can also help prevent vandalism. The York County Sheriff's Department offers to help organize programs in county neighborhoods free of charge.

Tips on how to improve home security, pinpoint trouble areas in the neighborhood and methods of crime prevention are discussed in neighborhood watch meetings. "Getting people to stand together is the only way we can stop it," says Medford.

For more information on getting a neighborhood watch program started, call Medford, 898-0224.



York Town Crier photo by Lois Chesley

Volunteers enjoy lunch

The Friends of the York County Library sponsored a luncheon honoring its volunteers last Thursday afternoon. Bob Desmarais, president of the library board, leads the way through the buffet line; he is followed by librarian Beverly Dudley and Janice Ward, volunteer coordinator.

Yorktown Crier 5/10/91

York County/Poquoson Neighbors, May 1, 1991

2



RANSY MORR/Staff photographer

Story fun

With great animation, Betsy Mountcastle tells a story to children at the York County Library. Mountcastle recently performed for the children in celebration of National Library Week.

Daily Press, Sunday May 12, 1991.
Book reviews

**Will
Molineux**

Book notes



Romance authors schedule program at York library

Five authors of romance novels — three of whom live on the Peninsula — will participate in a program next Sunday in the York County Public Library. They are:

■ **Patt Bucheister** of Virginia Beach, author of 25 romance novels, the most recent of which is "Hot Pursuit" (Bantam).

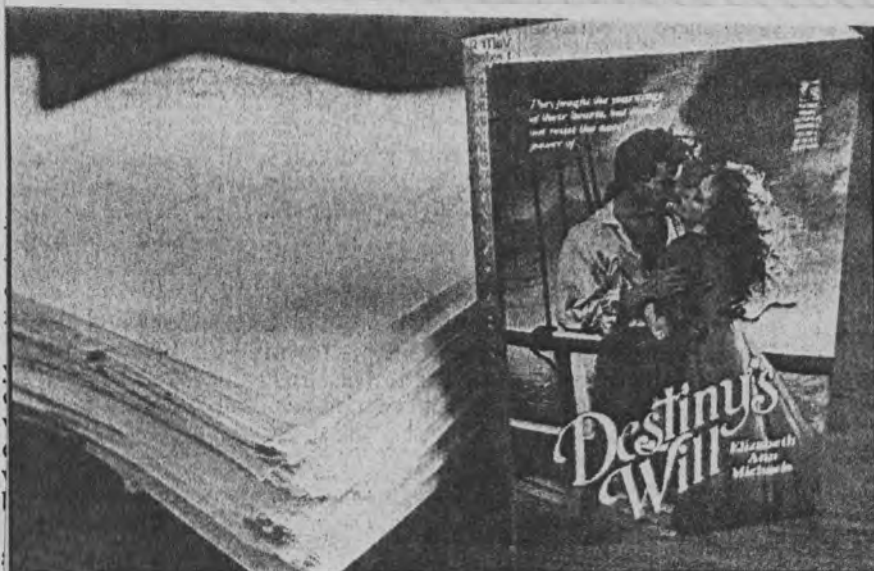
■ **Wendy Haley** of Chesapeake whose pen name is Wendy Garrett. She is the author of "Sweet Southern Caress" (Zebra Books).

■ **Allison Hentges** of Tabb who uses the pen names of Georgina Devon and Gina Devon. Her most recent book is "The Scarlet Lady" (Zebra Books).

■ **Diane Monach** of Grafton whose pen name is Jeanne Abbott. She is the author of "The Substitute Bridegroom" (Fawcett).

■ **Marie Sproull** of Tabb whose pen name is Elizabeth Ann Michaels. She is the author of "Destiny's Will" (Pocket Books).

For more information about the 2 p.m. program on May 19, contact Elizabeth Pesagno at 898-0077.



Michaels' first published novel in its original and final form

■ Local romance writers Elizabeth Ann Michaels, Georgina Devon, Jeanne Abbott, Wendy Garrett and Patt Bucheister will talk about their work in a special "Meet the Authors" program scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday at the York County Public Library, 8500 George Washington Highway, Yorktown. Admission is free. Call 898-0077 for more information.

"I'd like to be a best-selling author," the petite 37-year-old says, sitting in the converted upstairs study where she does most of her writing. "And I'm willing to work real hard to get there."

"But it's work. It's a job. It's something you have to plug away at every day. Most people looking in from the outside don't think of writing romance novels that way."

Michaels is one of five Hampton Roads authors who will talk about the art of writing romance novels Sunday at the York County Public Library. Her recently published first book, "Destiny's Will," is a historical romance set in early

19th-century Williamsburg; its heroine is a disinherited young Englishwoman trying to begin a new life in America.

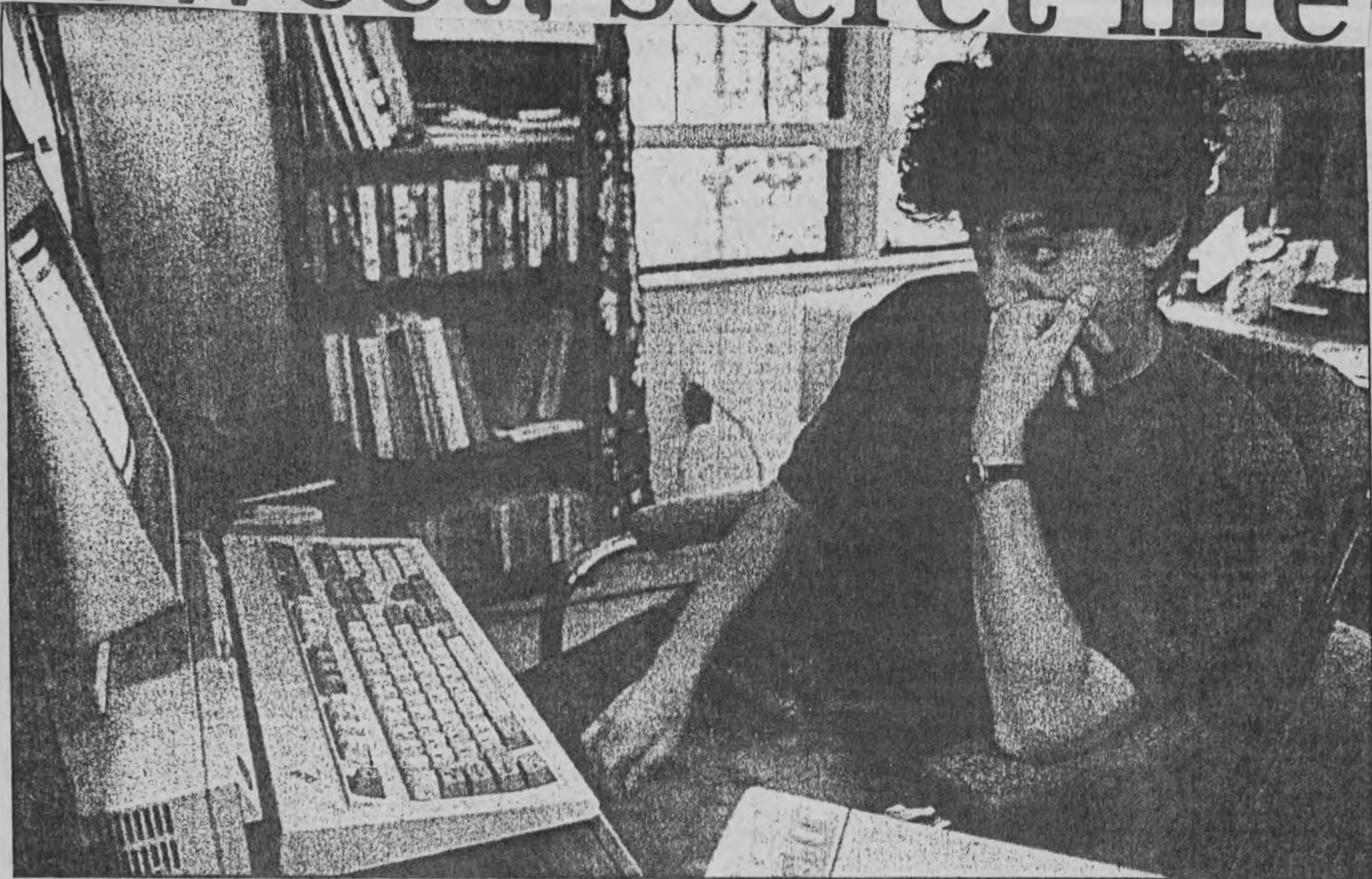
Michaels began "Destiny's Will" after reading another Williamsburg novel that fell embarrassingly short of her veteran romance fan standards.

The book she read fractured the area's geography, first of all, in a dramatic scene where the heroine ran from the edge of town to what is, in reality the far-off Atlantic Ocean. Once there she found a geologically unlikely outcrop of rocks being pounded by an angry sea.

Perhaps worst of all, the courage of

Daily Press 5/15/91

Sweet, secret life



Photos by VALENDIA CAMPBELL/Staff photographer

Romance novelist Elizabeth Ann Michaels searches for the right word or phrase. What started out as a hobby now is a demanding and rewarding job.

Writer balances grocery store, romance of yore

By MARK ST. JOHN ERICKSON
Staff Writer

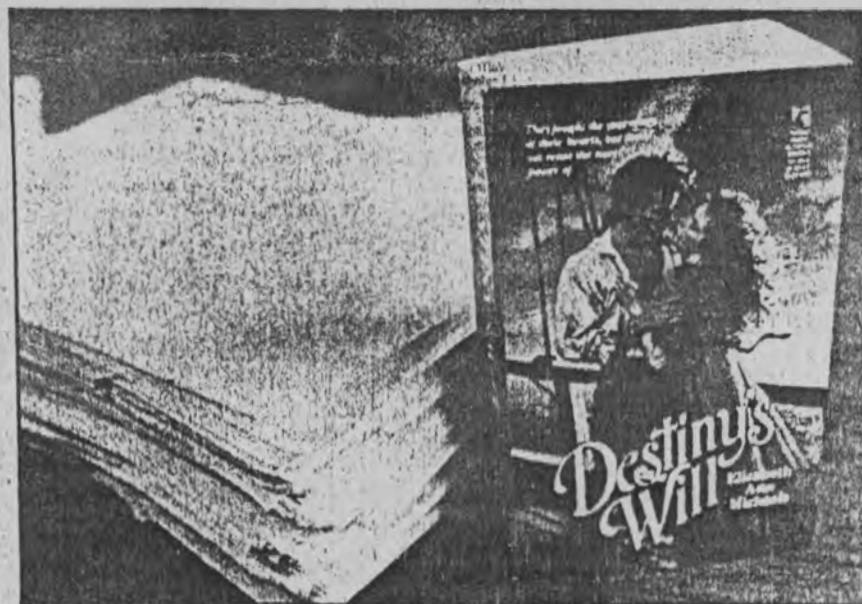
Romance writer Elizabeth Ann Michaels looks more like a cheerful suburban housewife than someone who conjures up pulse-quickening intrigues and smoldering forbidden passions.

She's more likely to be found buying groceries, running errands or making her family's beds, in fact, than helplessly resisting the sun-bronzed arms of some dangerously handsome and mysterious assailant.

Yet even while working in her peaceful York County yard — dressed in her characteristic rumpled sweatshirt, sneakers and jeans — she's liable to be thinking more about the nuances of character and plot than pulling up the weeds. And it wouldn't be unusual if she suddenly stopped, pulled a pencil from behind her ear and scratched down a few notes about how to pluck her courageous heroine from the grasp of some unsavory villain.

That kind of round-the-clock involvement isn't exactly what Michaels, who asked to be identified by her pen name, expected when she began her first book about five years ago. She's still surprised, she says, to find herself waking up at 2 in the morning — with scene after scene of an unfinished novel playing itself out in her head.

But the thrill of making up a story, selling it to a publisher and seeing it read by thousands of readers has dramatically altered her original expectations. What began as a part-time hobby has turned instead into a demanding, if unusually rewarding job.



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Perhaps worst of all, the courageous

belle performed her impossible sprint to the faraway coast while wearing a farthingale. That awkward kind of long, framed skirt would have made it difficult to walk briskly — much less break out into a full-fledged, long-distance run.

"I got totally angry with the book. I thought, 'What a waste of money!' — and threw it in the trash," Michaels says.

"Then I thought, 'I can do better than that,' and I started to write a book for the fun of it. At the time, I had no intentions of getting it published."

Over the next three years, Michaels' literary hobby blossomed into a time-consuming obsession. Her research took her up and down Duke of Gloucester Street dozens of times, where she questioned interpreters, toiled in the library and haunted the historic walkways and gardens.

At home, she found herself writing down snatches of copy while doing the laundry and cooking her family's meals. Despite her job teaching art at Poquoson High School, she had enough energy at the end of the day to work on her manuscript in bed.

She wrote the story down in longhand first, always using a pencil instead of a pen. That familiar instrument helped the former art student feel more comfortable with the act of writing. It was like drawing a series of images with words instead of pictures, she says.

All her work, however, eventually persuaded Michaels to try to get her novel published. "That's when I started over from the beginning and rewrote the whole thing," she says.

The would-be author was partly through the rewrite when, after almost nine months of looking, she finally found an agent. She'd almost given up when, after several more months and a series of discouraging rejections, Pocket Books offered her an advance on "Destiny's Will" and a contract for two more books.

■ Please see Romance, C2

Destiny Press 5/10/91

Library plans a truly romantic afternoon

Five Hampton Roads romance writers, three of whom live in York County, will be featured at a "Meet the Author" program at the York County Public Library on Sunday, May 19 at 2 p.m. Their novels cover these romance genre: contemporary, historical and regency. Each author will speak for a short time and then open the meeting for discussion and questions.

As a preview to the program, please meet the authors:

•Jeanne Abbott, who lives in Grafton, and is the author of *The Substitute Bridegroom*, Fawcett Books, 1985. Abbott began writing in her pre-kindergarten days, producing originally scripted puppet shows in the backyard. She turned to novel writing while living in Naples, Italy and now lives in Grafton with her husband and three children;

•Georgina Devon, who lives in Tabb, is the author of *The Scarlet Lady*, Zebra, 1991. Devon introduces herself this way: "As a military brat and wife of an Air Force pilot, I've spent my life moving every couple of years. While it gets hectic, I've never regretted living in new places. However, it does make it hard to hold a nine-to-five job, but I solved that by becoming a writer."

•Elizabeth Ann Michaels, who also lives in Tabb, is the author of *Destiny's Will*, Pocket, 1991. She describes herself: "I'm originally from Connecticut, and have been living in the Peninsula area of Virginia since my husband and I were married fifteen years ago. We

have one son, no pets, but a good-sized yard and too many trees that require lots of raking in the fall.

•Patt Bucheister, who lives in Virginia Beach, is the author of *Hot Pursuit*, Loveswept, 1991. Bucheister is the author of 25 romance novels, several short stories and articles for various publications. She is listed in *Who's Who of U. S. Writers, Editors and Poets*, 1989, *The Romantic Spirit*, and *The World's Who's Who of Women*, 1989. She is married with two sons.

•Wendy Garrett, who lives in Chesapeake, is the author of *Sweet Southern Caress*, Zebra, 1991. Garrett has lived in the Tidewater area for ten years, settling here after having resided in Texas, Louisiana, and much of the Eastern Seaboard. Her family consists of an engineering husband, two children ages six and three, and an elderly dog who is the real boss of the house.

No pre-registration is required for this program but seating will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis.



VALENDIA CAMPBELL/Staff photographer

Some usual and unusual research materials aid romance writers.

Romance

Continued from C1

"I still stand there like an idiot and giggle when I see it in a bookstore," she says, laughing about her reaction. "But I don't think there has been another high quite like the actual sale of the manuscript."

"Destiny's Will" has sold more than half of its modest 30,000-copy first printing since it was published in January. That's just enough to keep her family in groceries, Michaels says, and it gives her time to write.

She's had to make some unexpected adjustments, however, because of her new-found standing as a successful, if still relatively unknown, author. Gushing fan letters have to be read and answered. Books have to be autographed and readers fawned over in order to spur sales.

She's also had to learn to deal with the responses of some of her acquaintances and friends. Several treat her as a celebrity. A few can barely conceal their contempt for the traditionally escapist nature

of the romance novel.

"For the longest time, I didn't tell anyone," the author says. "But when the word got out, some of them would look at me as if I'd grown horns. I had to convince them it didn't change me as a person."

The reaction at home has been far easier to handle. Michaels' husband, a real-estate banker, pitches in willingly with the groceries, housekeeping and meals when she needs extra time to make a deadline. He also accompanies her on some of her research trips, including several recent visits to the ruins of Rosewell Plantation in Gloucester County, and listens to her story ideas.

Her 7-year-old son, Josh, has adapted well, too. He even seems to take his mother's unusual career for granted.

"For him, it's Mommy makes dinner, Mommy makes Halloween costumes, Mommy writes books," Michaels says. "But if I say I'm not writing today, he tells me to get to work and warns me about losing my job."

"He's such a little taskmaster. My agent calls him my manager."

Ah, the romance of reading

The passion started in high school when a friend loaned me a copy of "Shanna" by Kathleen E. Woodiwiss. Up until that time my pleasure reading consisted primarily of biographies and work by Langston Hughes and Agatha Christie. I was to find, quickly, that Shanna's adventures were in no way comparable to those of the Hardy Boys or Nancy Drew. That romance stuff was a voyage into new territories and I was a willing traveler.

Romance novels get little respect — one friend calls them "drivel" — but I have never denied my obsession with them. The formula rarely changes: Boy meets girl, one leads the other on a merry chase until they realize they are in love, a great conflict ensues and all seems hopelessly lost. But by the last chapter, as sure as the sun rises, the conflict is resolved and they are on the road to eternal bliss. The fun, of course, is in the personalities of the characters and how the author weaves the tale.

After 15 years of reading romance novels, particularly historicals and contemporaries, it's relatively easy to know whether one is well written or not. I give the authors one chapter; if I'm not into the story by that time, I move on to the next book. With Woodiwiss' novel "Shanna" I was hooked at the first sentence: "Night gripped the city with cold, misty darkness."

With a flair for the comic-dramatic, my youngest brother, barely controlling his mirth, will read the covers of romance novels, "Fate brought them together! Desire forged their souls!" Then there's a

Felicia L. Mason

Columnist



friend who never wants to read the whole book — just "the good parts." Maybe that's what led my father to at one time declare the novels were nothing but pornography.

Whether called "drivel," or as a newspaper colleague calls them "bosom books" — the cover illustrations of a great many romance novels feature women nearly busting out of their bodices — the novels represent significant sales for bookstores.

Susan Arnold, spokeswoman for Connecticut-based Waldenbooks, says sales of romance novels are up 25 percent over this time last year. "That's very good considering we're in a recession," she says. Romance novelist Georgina Devon, also known as Gina Devon, says romance is 40 percent of the mass paperback market. If the attendance at a York County Public Library program is any indication, that percentage could be quite accurate.

The Meet the Authors session last Sunday was a special delight. A standing-room-only audience packed the library's meeting room to hear five area women talk about their experiences and careers as romance novelists. If anyone expected to see fur-wearing, diamond-dripping women of the Barbara Cartland vein, they were sadly

disappointed. The authors, Devon, Jeanne Abbott, Wendy Garrett, Elizabeth Ann Michaels and Patt Bucheister, are ordinary women — women who grocery shop, raise children, have grandchildren.

They fielded questions from avid readers and budding authors. Do you have to have an agent? Not really. Who picks the book covers? The publishers. How do you find the time to write? You make time. And what about those steamy love scenes? "It's entirely from my imagination." That's what I tell press people and my husband," Garrett said, laughing.

"With all the publicity we were hoping that all the chairs would be full," says Elizabeth Pessagno, reference librarian who organized the event. She hoped to see at least 30 faces. The library staff was astonished when more than 100 people showed up. "When a library does a program you hope. This was. ... I just couldn't believe it. It was fantastic," she said.

Those who couldn't get in asked if the program could be repeated. There were also requests for similar events for science fiction and mystery enthusiasts, Pessagno says.

If nothing else, it's good to know that reading is alive and well in some quarters. By the way, I haven't forsaken "real" literature. While I'm now revisiting Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass," I'm also halfway finished with "Fires of Eden."

Felicia L. Mason is associate editor of the editorial page.



York Town Crier 5/29/91



York Town Crier photo by Lois Chesley

Writers share their success

The York County Public Library was filled to overflowing during the 'Meet the Authors' program last Sunday afternoon. Local area romance writers spoke of their works and their motivation for writing. Wendy Garrett of Chesapeake, far left, tells of managing a family while devoting time to writing. Looking on are writers Jeanne Abbott of Grafton, Georgina Devon of Tabb, Elizabeth Ann Michaels also of Tabb and Patt Bucheister of Virginia Beach.







Open and shut:

Tabb residents demand library

By PATRICK LEE PLAISANCE
Staff Writer

YORK — Whenever Tabb resident Robin Wu wants some books for herself or her 2½-year-old son Benjamin, she doesn't spend the 15 minutes it would take to get to her own county library. She takes the shorter trip to Poquoson's collection.

"In my neighborhood, everyone goes to the Poquoson library," said the Heatherlea resident. "No one

comes here."

Wu visited the county's library on Route 17 near Fort Eustis Boulevard for the first time Friday to start a language program. But she and other Tabb area residents don't want to venture that far north to check out books.

"I really hope to have a library in Tabb," Wu said.

County library workers said they hear frequent complaints from Tabb residents who have to drive

to the county library.

"We call for overdue books, and they say it's too far, it's out of the way," said circulation clerk Ethel Peterson.

Nancy Ayer, president of the Friends of the York County Library, said she and others are losing patience with county officials and criticize them for delaying plans to locate a branch in Tabb.

"Those people in Tabb haven't had good library service for the six

years since that library was built, because it was built in the wrong place anyway," Ayer told the Board of Supervisors at a recent meeting. "We're tired of being put off."

For years, county officials have discussed opening a branch in Tabb. They once considered an offer from a developer to lease storefront space in the Shady Banks Shopping Center on Hampton Highway. County Administrator Daniel Stuck said library offi-

cials have asked for about \$70,000 for the last few years to open a temporary storefront facility, but he has refused to recommend it.

Last year, however, Stuck said he urged the Board of Supervisors to plan spending \$200,000 in 1992 to buy land for a permanent library in the Tabb area. That plan has been pushed back one year, and Stuck said the county may ask voters to approve a bond issue in 1995.

■ Please see Library, C4

she hears regular complaints from parents who bring their children to programs.

"We've heard that it's too inconvenient to bring their children up here," Ward said.

Sherry Inabinet, coordinator for children's programs, said she began holding a storytelling hour for children once a week in January, at the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church at 1209 Hampton Highway, but stopped it last month.

"I had a lot of parents saying they wished they had something down there, but they didn't like dropping off their children at a place without books," Inabinet said, adding that parents often read books and magazines when they bring their children to the library.

In 1981, county residents approved a \$900,000 bond issue to build and equip the present library.

Supervisor Jere Mills said he wants to locate a new library in the "triangle" between routes 17, 171 and 134.

"Everybody is in agreement that we're going to do it now," Mills said.

The county gives the Williamsburg Regional Library \$60,000 each year because it is used by residents in the northern end of the county. While many residents in the southern end of the county regularly use the Poquoson library, the county does not give the city library any money.

Janice Ward, York County Library's circulation director, said

Daily Press, Sat. June 1, 1991.

York Town Crier 6/5/91

Creek Park at 898-0090.

Reading is Dino-Mite

The York County Public Library will hold two reading programs running from June 25 to Aug. 15. There will be a Story Hour for children who were three years old by Jan. 1, and a Summer Reading Club for those who have completed grades one through five.

Story Hour

There will be five weeks of special programs and three weeks of traditional story ours. Children must be registered for the program. Registration begins June 13 and may be done by either coming to the library or calling 898-0077. All children come without adults; however, a responsible adult is expected to remain the library. No children may come to the special programs who are not registered as the meeting room is not large enough to accommodate them. Exact dates for



the special programs and story hours will be explained when the children are registered.

Story Hour children may participate in the Reading is Dino-Mite Reading Club by either reading to their parents or having their parents read to them. Reading records will be placed in the children's area for those children who choose to participate.

Summer Reading Club

This program is for students who have completed grades one through five. Pre-registration is requested and may be done by coming to the library, calling 898-0077, or attending one of the parent's meetings. (See note below.)

In order to attend, children must be reading books from the York County Public Library and bring reading logs each week after the first week that they attend. Children

who cannot attend sessions may make individual arrangements with the Children's Co-ordinator so that they may participate. Children who have not previously attended may not attend the final Cooking Contest/Awards Par-ty. The weekly schedule is listed below. All programs begin at 1:30 p.m. except for the MAT program which will be at 3:30 p.m. All programs last approximately 1 1/2 hours.

Schedule of special activities

Grades 1-2	Grades 3-5
Both Groups	June 25 (Tues.)
Both Groups	July 2 (Tues.)
Both Groups	July 9 (Tues.)
Both Groups	July 16
July 23 (Tues.)	July 25 (Thurs.)
Both Groups	July 30 (Tues.)
Aug 6 (Tues.)	Aug 8 (Thurs.)
Aug. 13 (Tues.)	Aug. 15 (Thurs.)

Wayne Taylor and the MAT Puppets
Betsy Mountcastle, Storyweaver
Magic Trunk Players
Ginger Inabinet, Dino-Mite Dinosaurs
Create-A-Saurus Day
Meredith Hunt, Dramatic Storyteller
Dinosaur Games, "Bee," & Detective Day
Dinosaur Cooking Contest/Awards Party

Tabb area needs its own branch library

"Button, button, who's got the button?" That is a game I remember from childhood. Now, here in York, we see a similar game. It has a different name, though: "Branch, branch, who's got the branch?"

The "branch" is the branch library, a long-desired -- and expected -- public service for those of us who live in York East, that is, between the Poquoson River and our boundary with Newport News, Hampton and Poquoson.

There are a lot of people in that area nowadays. In fact, over *one-third* of the county's total population lives between Lakeside Drive and our southeastern boundaries. That adds up to many disappointed citizens who don't understand why things aren't moving more rapidly on a branch library near them.

This is not suddenly emerging issue. Many complained about the location of our present library, but a gift of land away from the center of population was irresistible.

Consequently, the present library on Route 17 near York High is relatively convenient for those in York central (Poquoson River to the Weapons Station). Furthermore, for those of us in York West (beyond Cheatham Annex) the Williamsburg Library is available free of charge, thanks to an annual subsidy from the county.

In contrast, though, York East gets some fine words in the "2010" Comprehensive Plan document. *Sometime, somewhere* library service for that area will appear. In a repeat of the process that led to the present Route 17 facility, the service starts as a store-front operation. After two or three years and if community participation is strong, a permanent facility follows. That's the "2010" game plan.

All along, an organization of community-minded people, Friends of the Library, have repeatedly pressed for library service east of the Poquoson River.



Viewpoint

By Joe Taylor

Our supervisors, however, listen politely and then go on with their own agenda. For the life of me, I don't understand Jere Mills' and Jim Funk's lack of interest in moving on this for their constituents. After all, the need for schools and a fire station was both recognized and satisfied by previous office-holders.

They seem to have no problem, though, with sending over \$63,000 to the Williamsburg Library (WL) this next fiscal year. I'm told that is the amount *requested* by that agency! When you consider that the WL serves fewer than 4400 York County patrons, it adds up to our paying almost \$14.50 per individual. That sounds pretty steep to me.

We run a tight ship here, in terms of per patron costs. In processing patron data for automated circulation, I've seen totals above 40,000. Allowing for people moving away still produces a conservative estimate of 30,000 patrons. That gives a per patron annual cost of about \$12! Yes, we run a tight ship by comparison.

I don't understand why the formula previously used was abandoned in favor of accepting the WL's request. It seems to me our cost per patron is the rational basis for our payment to WL. I'm not happy with subsidizing *their* inefficiency.

I haven't found any public record that either the staff or the supervisors presented or considered any

funding in next year's budget for opening York East's store-front library. There are reports that capital budget funds earmarked for purchase of a library site this up-coming year now will be carried over for obligation at some future time.

If there is uncertainty as to where the permanent location should be, deferral makes sense; to appropriate *no* funds to start a store-front library, doesn't.

Perhaps Mills and Funk prefer to trade on the good will of Poquoson, whose library has numerous patrons from York East. So far, Poquoson has sent us no bill, and these two supervisors see no need to push for a branch library until we get a dun.

As a volunteer at our library, I've seen records of patrons from Poquoson. Interesting, isn't it, that some Poquoson residents patronize our library? I guess it has to do with what they need and what we offer.

All of us, through our taxes, built schools and fire stations from one end of the county to the other. Similarly, the library on Route 17 isn't the exclusive property of some nearby neighborhoods.

Unfortunately, some people seem to have that idea though. On more than one occasion, I've heard the comment, "We've got a library. Let them get theirs." That attitude divides rather than unifies, and I reject it.

After all, we are still "building" our community and no one area can satisfy its needs without the rest of us pitching in.

"Branch, branch, who's got the branch?" Let's answer that question with, "Here it is. Together let's nurture its growth."

A resident of York County since 1966, Joe Taylor is a retired mechanical engineer. He is past president of the Yorktown Rotary Club, a former planning commissioner, and a member of the York County Democratic Committee.



New picture after changes in 1991
Gary's Teams Picture

Back row left to right

Mary Ellen Mortola, Brenda Fears,
Gary Stewart, Pam Miller, Frinda Foster

Front row left to right

Jebb Stewart, Terry Wong, Bryan Amundson,
Todd Roemmich, Mike Kelly

Dynix installation team

Book sale slated

There will be a big book sale on Saturday, June 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the York County Public Library, Rt. 17, in Yorktown. There is a huge variety of interesting books from which to choose.

Friends of the Library use all proceeds to help the library, with a concentration on sponsoring children's programs and obtaining new books and needed small equipment.

Mark the date and buy books for a whole year of excellent reading.

York Town News 6/26/81

York Town Crier July 31, 1991.



York Town Crier photo by Lois Chesley

Dinosaur decor

Jeff Helm spends some of his free time creating a Tyrannosaurus Rex which hangs in the children's section of the York County Library. His creation is in keeping with the summer reading club's theme, 'Reading is Dino-Mite.'

Library goes high tech

By Lois Chesley
Town Crier staff

The advances of modern technology have become increasingly evident during recent years. Computers have been introduced in schools, workplaces and commercial establishments. Scanners in supermarkets not only speed service, but are more accurate and give a running inventory of available merchandise in stock.

Now, even more people will feel the effects of technology in a direct, hands-on setting, as the York County Library becomes fully automated beginning Monday, Oct. 7. At first glance, things still look the same and business will be conducted as usual, but library patrons should begin to notice improvements in services within a short period of time.

"A great deal of planning, preparation, time and money was involved in bringing about this change," says Valerie Hill, library assistant and technical expert associated with the project. "We actually started in 1985, with the help of a state grant, to get our library records ready to change over to an electronic system. We've maintained these records all this time, which certainly helped in the over-all project," she adds.

Automation at the library involves three separate sets of files. In general cataloging, a separate record has been entered into the main computer for every item in the library. The card catalog will eventually be replaced by PAC's (Public Access Catalogs), which are computer terminals patrons will use to locate information within the library.

The third aspect involves patron records and book circulation. This phase of the automated system's coming "on line" will be the most evident, as library patrons in good standing are being issued a new library card which resembles a credit card and which is encoded to enable a quick check-out procedure. All library books are now bar-coded, thanks to the efforts of the library staff and volunteers earlier this spring.

"After exploring the best-known and reliable companies, and comparing systems already at work in near-by libraries, Dynix Automated Library Systems was the one selected by the Library Board," Hill explains. "We are not computer experts, we're library experts," she states emphatically, "and we all wanted some system that the library staff as well as the public would be able to use with ease. Dynix filled our requirements and their company representatives trained our staff members as to its use."

The PAC actually gives its user far more information than could be obtained from the card catalog. A person searching for a particular book can locate it quickly and eas-

ily by entering the exact title, or just a key word or words which appear in the title. He could also locate the book by author, subject or key word or words regarding the subject.

As another added feature, an extension computer terminal in the children's library will allow young readers to locate books by subject alone.

A display on the terminal screen will also indicate how many copies of the chosen book the library has, and indeed how many, if any, books are actually on the shelf. This feature of the system is bound to be very popular, as it will save unnecessary trips to the stacks in search of something that does not exist at the time.

For a person doing research, the public access module (terminal) offers more options and better access to all materials available in the library. The computer itself will identify all cross-references dealing with any given subject. A printer is attached to the terminal, so the user can make a copy of whatever is recommended on the screen at the touch of a finger.

From an administrative point of view, the librarians foresee a tremendous improvement in the services they will be able to render. As soon as books are returned, they will once again appear as available on the computer screen, saving turn-around time. Presently books are credited as returned, sorted manually and then placed on the shelves as time permits. Customers have no way of knowing that a particular book is, indeed, in the library and available, but just has not yet been returned to its proper location on the shelf.

Books placed on the "Reserved" list should also be delivered sooner. The computer will alert the librarian as soon as the requested book becomes available, and the person who asked for that book will be contacted immediately.

Turn-around time will also be improved because the computer will alert the librarians as to over-due books and who has them. These people can be contacted sooner, and will most probably return their books at their earliest convenience. Those waiting for a particular book should see it back on the shelf within a short period of time.

In the beginning, as the automated system is introduced, the card catalog will continue to be a working part of the library for those who feel more comfortable using it. Library staff and reference people will be available to help patrons use the new equipment and become familiar with its uses and functions. "We tried to find a system that wouldn't take anything away, but rather would add to our current system's usefulness and efficiency," Hill says. "I think we've found it and hope the public will agree," she concluded.



York Town Crier, Wed. Oct. 2, 1991, page 1.



Chris 10/09/91

Saturday story hour series set for library

Beta Omicron Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma will provide a series of Saturday afternoon story hours at the York County Public Library for children enrolled in grades 1-3. The first story hour will be held on Oct. 12 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Members of Beta Omicron Chapter are current and retired educators from York County schools. The story hours are an outgrowth of the society's resolution to implement literacy programs on behalf of all its members.

Preregistration for the story hour is required and may be done by calling the library at 898-0077.

*Yorktown
Chris
Oct 30, 1991*

Puppet program slated for library

The York County Public Library will sponsor a puppet program featuring Margot Siemer of Perth, Australia. The hour-long program will be held Tuesday, Nov. 5, at 4 p.m. and is for children in kindergarten through third grade.

Siemer was raised on her family's cattle and sheep station in outback Western Australia, where her appreciation of the unique Australian animals was kindled and is now reflected in her puppets.

The library requests a 50 cents donation per child. Reservations are not being taken; seating is limited to 150.

For more information, call Sherry Inabinet at 898-0077.



New computer system updates the library

YORK COUNTY

The York County Public Library recently began using the Dynix Library Automation System to improve library operations. The new system automates all three library functions: cataloging, check-out and the card catalog. Although the present card catalog will temporarily remain in the library, the automated catalog will give even more information about library items; for example, whether a book is checked out or when it is due. In circulation, staff will finally be able to answer the frequently asked question, "What do I have checked out?"

The new computer system was installed in March. Since that time, library staff has been placing bar code labels on more than 66,000 items, registering patrons, issuing new library cards and training on the system. "The new system will be able to offer more complete and more efficient service to the public," says Beverly E. Dudley, York County Library director. "All users of the York County Public Library are encouraged to stop in and exchange their old library card for a new one."

Patrons can receive their new cards during the following operating hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Daily Press, Thurs. Oct. 17, 1991.

Booksellers combat censorship with 'Freedom to Read' week

By Lois Chesley
Town Crier staff

What do "Little Red Riding Hood," "Huckleberry Finn" and "Charlotte's Web" have in common? All are on the Banned Book List of 1991, recently released by the American Booksellers Association, American Library Association, National Association of College Stores, Association of American Publishers, and American Society of Journalists and Authors.

These organizations have co-sponsored the list's publication to prove a very important point about free speech.

"These groups have joined together to emphasize that imposing information restraints on a free people is far more dangerous than any ideas that may be expressed in that information," Robert Doyle wrote in the book's introduction. In drawing up the list, the sponsors have collected titles and reasons why various localities, states and nations have banned certain books historically and today.

"Banned Books Week '91 -- Celebrating the Freedom to Read" serves to publicize the dangers of censorship by those persons affiliated with special interest groups. The impact and influence affects not only the members of these "watchdog groups," but the general public as well.

This year the theme should have

"I'm sure we have several books on the shelves that are, in part, seen as offensive by many people. But that is no reason to keep them off the shelves."

Beverly Dudley
York Librarian

a special interest to all Americans, as they celebrate the Bicentennial of the Bill of Rights. The week of September 25 to October 5 has been designated to highlight the rights and freedoms granted by the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Marcheta deLamorton, former Tabb resident and proprietor of The Bookworm in Newport News, has mixed feelings about designating a week to focus on banned books, as she talks about The American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression.

"This group was formed a little over a year ago primarily to deal with censorship," she says. "Booksellers already are involved with a great deal of self-censorship," deLamorton explains, "as they create the atmosphere of the store as well as the image they project within the community. Booksellers do a lot of personal reviewing of titles and authors in de-

ciding which books they will or will not carry. Bowing to pressure to add, or especially to delete, a book from stock is always a difficult task," she adds.

So, even though "Little Red Riding Hood" offends some who feel that it "is sending mixed signals to young children" about drinking and alcoholism because there is a bottle of wine in the basket intended for grandmother, most schools, libraries and bookstores continue to stock the book. The same is true of Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn", criticized because of "racist language" and Ronald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" which espouses a "poor philosophy of life," according to its critics.

Beverly Dudley, librarian at the York County Library, doesn't seem particularly fazed by the attention given to books on the "banned" list.

"Censorship is such a subjective Please see **BANNED**, page 2



York Town Crier photo by Lois Chesley

Marcheta deLamorton looks over 'banned' books in her shop.

Banned

Continued from page 1

thing," she says. "I'm sure we have several books on the shelves that are, in part, seen as offensive by many people. But that is no reason to keep them off the shelves."

Cren Teicher, president of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, says that "booksellers are committed to ensure that the flow of ideas is not stopped because one group or an-

other happens to dislike the content of a particular book."

He also emphasizes that "Banned Book Week" offers a chance to reiterate a commitment to the First Amendment, and he urges the public not to be swayed in any way by any group whose purpose is to erode protection offered by the amendment, particularly that segment involving freedom of the press.

What books are banned -- and why they made the list

In drawing up a list of books which are currently or have historically been banned, challenged -- and sometimes even burned -- the publishers of Banned Books Week '91 have collected data from all over the world. In every instance, some one or some collection of people have been offended by all or a portion of a book and have actively agitated to restrict or totally ban everyone's access to a book.

"Yet, in an increasingly divided but interdependent world, one person's blasphemy is another's intellectual jigsaw," Anne Levinson, assistant director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom wrote.

How do we incorporate and accommodate these diverse views?

"The answer cannot be censorship under the guise of "sensitivity." In a society, on a planet with so many diverse cultures, we will soon "sensitize" ourselves into silence," Levinson wrote.

The books on the banned list include some giants in the field of literature, dictionaries, and textbooks. John Steinbeck, William Shakespeare, Steven King and Mark Twain all make the list. Henrik Ibsen, Judy Blume, Jack London, Shel Sil-

verstein and Ernest Hemingway are there, too. So is Karl Marx,

Alice Walker, William Faulkner, Jean Paul Sartre, Anne Frank, Thomas Hardy, Jesse Jackson, and Homer. The Bible is there, as are several dictionaries, biology, social studies and reading text books.

What's considered objectionable? Some of the books are on the list because they contain references to the supernatural or occult, others because of language. Graphic sexual passages -- or drawings in text books -- have helped put books on somebody's hit list. "*Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*" was withdrawn from a library because an administrator concluded "if there's a possibility that something might be controversial, then why not eliminate it." Books interpreted as promoting secular humanism and feminism are on the list, as are books seen as racist or those seen to promote alternative lifestyles. Books offensive to numerous religions are on the list. Books have made the list because they "contain inappropriate words and ideas," they "bring up an indelicate subject," are "filthy," are "a bunch of garbage," and are "junk." "*Father Christmas*" by Raymond Briggs made it to the list because some-

CAUTION!

SOME PEOPLE CONSIDER THESE BOOKS DANGEROUS

AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY • THE BIBLE • ARE YOU THERE, GOD? IT'S ME MARGARET • OUR BODIES, OURSELVES • IZAN • ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND • THE LEXICIST • THE CHOCOLATE WAR • CATCH 22 • LORD OF THE FLIES • CHIMPANZEE PEOPLE • SOUL ON ICE • RAISING IN THE SUN • OLIVER TWIST • A FAREWELL TO ARMS • THE BEST SHORT STORIES OF NEGRO WHITES • FLOWERS FOR ALGERNON • ULYSSES • TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD • ROSEMARY'S BABY • THE FIXER • DEATH OF A SALESMAN • MOTHER GOOSE • CATCHER IN THE RYE • THE MERCHANT OF VENICE • ONE DAY IN THE LIFE OF IVAN DENISOVICH • GRAPES OF WRATH • THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN • SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE • GO ASK ALICE

BANNED BOOKS WEEK— CELEBRATING THE FREEDOM TO READ

Booksellers display a variety of signs to remind readers of their rights to free speech.

one objected that "Santa has a negative attitude toward Christmas."

And how do the censors deal with books they find objectionable? In Gretna, Va. a decade ago "*The Treasury of American Poetry*" was challenged for eight objectionable words. The review committee recommended cutting the pages containing those words out of the book -- or inking over them in place.

The Nazis burned the works of Hemingway and Jack London. American cities and school systems have removed books from shelves or placed them on restricted shelves which require readers to prove their age -- and if they are under 18 present parental permission before they can be checked out.



'Scarves' presented to county library

The York County Victory Auxiliary 13, Disabled American Veterans, presented the York County Public Library with a VCI tape entitled "Scarves" recently. This is a scarf-tying video for women with hair loss. A second copy will be presented to the local American Cancer Society.

The content of the video is

directed toward women who suffer hair loss after chemotherapy treatments. The subject matter provides a fashionable alternative for covering the head in lieu of wigs. The art of tying scarves and blending patterns to coordinate clothing from sports and casual to professional and formal wearing apparel, to include makeup tips and accessorizing.

The subject matter is well-presented and may be helpful to any woman interested in fashions using scarves. *York Town Crier 12/15*



York Town Crier photo by Nan Brown Maxwell

Saturday at the county library

A windy, rainy Saturday kept many county residents inside -- lots of them at the library. Robert Lunau spent some time helping his son Matthew search the card catalog for help on a project for his fourth-grade class at Yorktown Elementary School.

York Town Crier 2/12/92

This is the library that volunteers built

by Beth Meisner

Many issues have dominated York County's news over the most recent quarter of a century, but above all the needs of a public library have remained front page material. Twenty-five years ago York County didn't even have a public library. But in 1968 all that was to change, and like so many other suc-

cessful community service projects, the library grew from the creative genius and determined toil of volunteers.

The modern library has its roots in the York County Volunteer Association which in 1968 determined that a library was needed to foster greater literacy among the residents of the county. In June of 1968 the headlines read "Volunteers launch program to circulate surplus books." Two months later the same paper ran the headline, "York County to have volunteer Library."

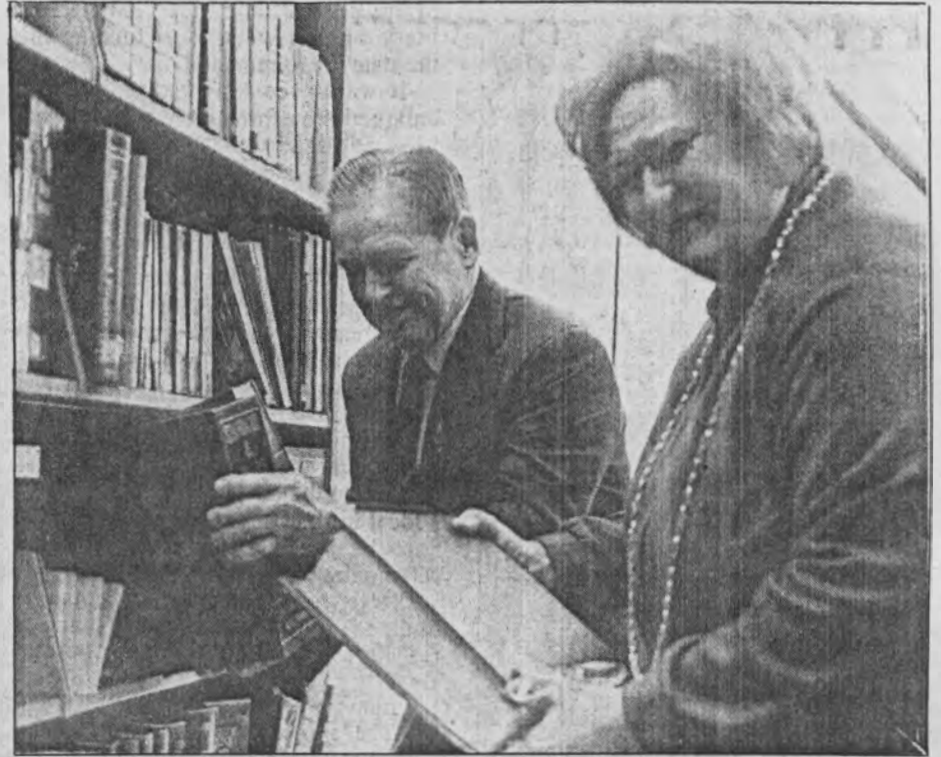
The Grafton-Bethel School Bulletin for September of 1968 described the new facility:

"York County's first public library was recently opened on Saturday, Sept. 1, 1968. It is located at the intersection of Dare Road and Route 17 between Grafton Amoco Service Station and Ma Tate's Restaurant in a white two-story residence. The hours are from 10 a.m. to noon and 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and from 9 to 12 noon on Saturday. So come one -- come all and take advantage of this new step forward in York County's history."

In the first four months 408 members signed up and the collection numbered 4,070 books, all of which came into the collection through donation. There were 430 adult and 540 children's books circulated and cash donations totalled \$486.30.

The library was on its way.

In those early days volunteers manned the facility, did all the paperwork, circulation and programs. The Bargain Box held a "happening" in April



The late Rodgers Smith works with Beverly Dudley

of 1968 to raise money and the Grafton VFW and York Lions Clubs helped financially. York High School's Future Teachers of America held Saturday programs for children. Over the years these and local church groups, high school Keyette clubs, the Jaycees, and the York

Home Demonstration club have supported the library with purchases and funds.

As the library grew it outgrew its original location and in 1971 moved to



New shelves await books



Shelves are overflowing in the Grafton Shopping Center facility



Supports for new-library go up

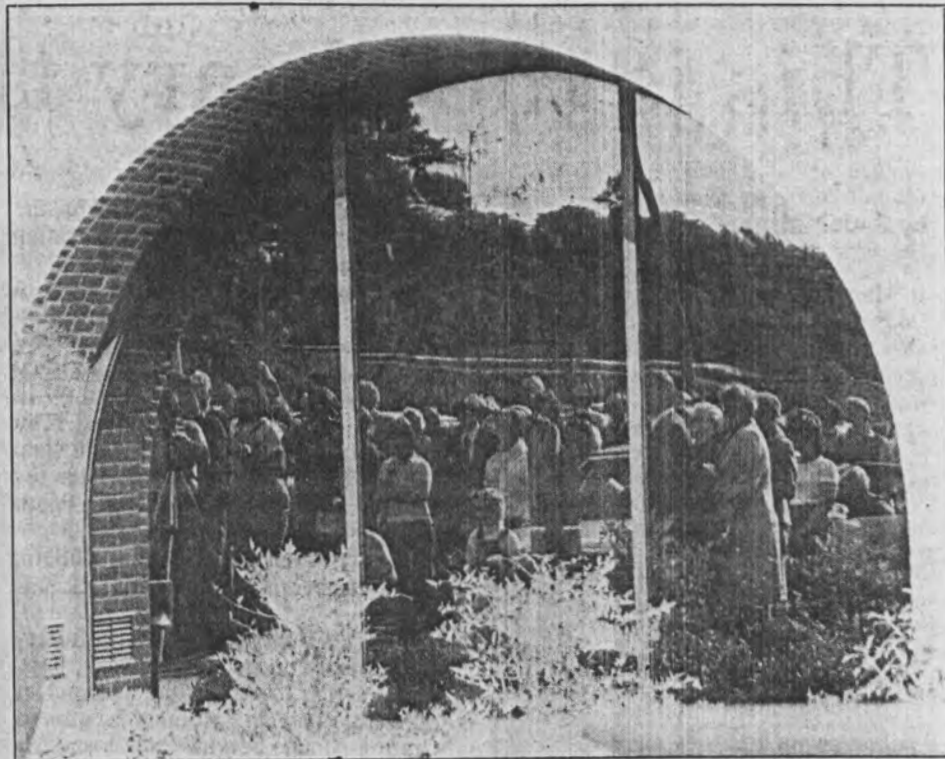
a storefront operation in the Grafton Shopping Center. It didn't take long before the professional staff and volunteers realized that this, too, would be outgrown in no time. By 1975 it had outgrown its space and a new addition was built. County funding increased and eventually the library received State Library support when local funding met the state's requirement.

It wasn't too long before even the enlarged storefront facility just wasn't big enough. In 1981, after an enthusiastic campaign, county voters passed a \$900,000 referendum to purchase land and build a "real" library for the county. The greatest support for the facility came from the central portion of the county -- voters in the Bruton and Tabb areas endorsed the expenditure less heartily because of their proximity to library facilities in Williamsburg and Hampton.

But the referendum passed and the land where the present library sits was donated to the county by Leslie O'Hara, a local businessman and developer. On Sept. 11, 1983, formal ground breaking ceremonies were held at the site.

"Here we are finally at the beginning of the realization of a long held dream, a real library building for York County," Beverly Dudley, York's first and only librarian said on that occasion.

"The growth of our library in 15 years has been rapid and steady. Our total book circulation in the first year of operation was less than 5,000. By 1975 circulation had reached over 41,000. In 1978 it was over 71,000. In the next five years it more than doubled, to over 146,000 in 1982. Our collection of



Crowd at new library dedication reflected in window

books has grown to more than 27,000," Dudley told listeners at the ceremony.

Those numbers are even more impressive today. In 1991 there were 214,611 books circulated. And currently there are 17,000 re-registered members of the library, down some from last year's numbers as occasional users haven't filled out the new forms. Re-registration became necessary towards the end of last year when the library went "high tech" with a computerized cataloging and circulation system.

Many things have changed since the days when volunteers constructed shelves, glued in date due pockets, and held garage sales to raise money for the fledgling library.

But as Dudley put it at the ground-breaking ceremonies in September of 1983: "One thing that has not changed at all during the lifetime of the library is the contribution of volunteer workers. At least 30 volunteers are at present donating their time on a regular basis to the library, and there is a long list -- in addition to organizations whose members have helped at various times -- of 170 individuals who have given their time and energy (and indeed this very site itself) to the library at one time or another. They can be especially proud today. Remembering how many people have worked for this library, we can say it is a public library in the truest sense -- not only for the people, but by the people."



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Old library was housed in this building on Route 17

YORK
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Celebrating cats

"CATch a Book" was the theme of National Library week, and the York County Public Library got right into the spirit of the event. The library sponsored a cat show, cat games, and cat trivia games highlighted the festivities on April 5. Each cat entered in the show earned an honor. And the winners were:

- Booger, "Cat with the longest tail," owned by Carla McKeag;
- Fuzz Ball, "Best Dressed," owned by Rob Peak;
- Soot, "Cat with the loudest voice," owned by Megan Whitmore;
- Patches, "Best moler," owned by Jamie Whitmore;
- Milo, "Smallest cat," owned by Betty Waters;
- Kitty Iggy, "Friskiest," owned by Jamie Sessoms;
- Burt, "Cat with the longest whiskers," owned by Kim Parker and Mandy Sutton;
- Stormy, "Cat with the purest one color coat," owned by Carissa Hart;
- Sir Knight Storm, "Cat with the biggest eyes," owned by Sheryl Wiatt;
- Webster, "Most alert cat," owned by Ian and Sheryl Branyon;
- Tiggy, "Fluffiest coat," owned by Laura Tweed;
- Carmel, "Friendliest," owned by Jennifer Williams;
- Princess, "shortest tails," owned tails;
- Tieko, "Calmeest, owned by Erin Reynolds;
- Patches, "Cat with the most spots," owned by Liz Engle;
- Dudley, "Best behaved," Laurie Reynolds;
- You Be, "Tardiest cat," owner unknown;
- Lynx, "Cat that charmed the judges most," owned by Jay Bestgerfeldt.



Liz and Jim Engle brought Patches

York Town Crier photos by Lois Chesley



Jennifer Williams shows off Carmel.

Ratty Press, April 2, 1992.

Come to library for live cat show

YORKTOWN

CATch a Book will be presented by the York County Public Library, 8500 George Washington Memorial Highway, Yorktown, in celebration of National Library Week, April 5-11.

At 2 p.m. Sunday, a live cat show for the family will be held on the back lawn of the library. Cats must be on a leash or in a carrier. At 7 p.m. Monday, a cat program for the family will be presented by the Chamberlin On The Bay Cat Fanciers.

During the rest of the week regular preschool story hours will feature cat stories.

At each checkout during National Library Week, a library cardholder's name may be entered in a drawing for a cat pillow. The drawing will be held at 4 p.m. April 11. The winner will be notified by phone.

For more information, call 898-0077.

'CATch a Book' activities scheduled

"CATch a Book" will be presented by the York County Public Library in celebration of National Library Week, April 5-11.

On Sunday, April 5, at 2 p.m. a live CAT show for the family will be held on the back lawn of the library. Area residents are invited to bring their cats, but they must be on a leash or in a carrier.

During the rest of the week, regular preschool story hours will feature cat stories.

At each check-out during National Library Week, a library cardholder's name may be entered into a drawing for a CAT pillow. The drawing will be held on Saturday, April 11, at 4 p.m.

For more information call 898-0077.





Cat Show: April 5, 1992

York County Library

Cat Show Winners

Booger owned by Carla McKeag - "Cat with the longest tail"
Fuzz Ball owned by Rob Peaks - "Best dressed cat"
Soot owned by Megan Whitmore - "Cat with the loudest voice"
Patches owned by Jaime Whitmore - "Best moler"
Milo owned by Betty Waters - "Smallest cat"
Kitty Iggy owned by Jamie Sessoms - "Friskiest"
Burt owned by Kim Parker & Mandy Sutton - "Cat with the longest
whiskers"
Puffy owned by Brenda Podgurski - "Most self-assured"
Misti owned by Joanna Korolyshyn - "Quietest cat"
Stormy owned by Carissa Hart - "Cat with the purest one color coat"
Susie owned by Sheryl Wiatt - "Cat with the biggest eyes"
Sir Knight Storm owned by Kimberly Reinbrecht - "Cat with the most
interesting name"
Webster owned by Ian & Sheryl Branyon - "Most alert cat"
Tiggy owned by Laura Tweed - "Fluffiest coat"
Comet owned by Justin Williams - "Best stalker"
Carmel owned by Jennifer Williams - "Friendliest"
Princess owned by Michael Tweed - "Shortest tail"
Tieko owned by Erin Reynolds - "Caldest"
Patches owned by Elizabeth Engle - "Cat with the most spots"
Dudley owned by Laurie Reynolds - "Best behaved"
You Be - "Tardiest cat"

Lynx owned by Jay Bestgerfeldt - "Cat that charmed the judges most"





'Battle of the Books' scheduled

The York County Public Library will sponsor its first "Battle of the Books" county competition on Wednesday, April 29, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room.

"Battle of the Books" is designed to stimulate interest in reading, to provide an alternative to athletic competition, to expose children to quality literature and to foster school spirit. The "Battle" is formulated along the lines of the old "College Bowl," and the more contemporary "It's Academic."

The competition is for grades 4 - 5 and grades 6 - 8. Each age group is given a list of 20-21 books to read.

All county schools were invited to enter the competition. Each school may enter as many four-member teams as they want. This year Dare Elementary and Seaford Elementary are participating. To advance to the county "Battle," teams must first

win their school competition.

The winning county team will progress to the regional competition with Williamsburg, Newport News and Hampton. This competition will be held at the Williamsburg Regional Library on May 8 for grades 6 - 8 and on May 15 for grades 4 - 5.

York County's participation in the "Battle" was made possible by the purchase of a "buzzer board" by the Friends of the York County Public Library.

It is hoped that other county elementary and middle schools will participate next year.

The "Battle" is coordinated by Sherry Inabinet, children's coordinator at the library. She is assisted by Alice Bostrom of Dare Elementary and Celestia Brown of Seaford Elementary schools.

The public is invited to attend the county and regional competitions. For more information, call Sherry Inabinet at 898-0077.

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Battle of the Books

Daily Press Thurs. May 7, 1992.

Competition stimulates reading interest

By Robyne R. Cooke
Daily Press

YORK

The natural quietness in the York County Public Library was interrupted only by the "high-fives" that followed each correct answer.

When the fourth- and fifth-graders from Dare and Seaford elementary schools went head-to-head in the county's first Battle of the Books, the Dare team pulled ahead quickly and kept the lead throughout the match.

Dare's winning score of 52 to Seaford's 31 earned the team a trophy and a chance to compete against Williamsburg, Newport News and Hampton in the regional competition, which is designed to stimulate an interest in reading and promote reading comprehension.

Mary Lewis, Kristin Shealy, Susie Martin and Brian Rhodes are on Dare's winning team.

"I kind of got butterflies. The key to winning is always have confidence in yourself and in your team," says Kristin.

Mary plans to study hard for the fourth- and fifth-graders' regional competition, which will be held at 7 p.m. on May 15 at the Williamsburg Regional Library. "I'm going to read as much as I can read," she says.

Brian read about 20 of the 21 books on the required reading list and plans to reread most of them before the regional competition to refresh his memory. "You can learn things from books. Any book is great," he says.

The teams answered 126 questions about the 21 books they have been reading since October.

The Dare team had already beaten three other teams from its school, while the Seaford team, composed of Beth Rennix, Anne Bellflower, Tanya Wilson and Paula Guzman, had beaten four other teams.



Waiting anxiously for the next question are, from left, Kristin Shealy, Mary Lewis and Brian Rhodes of the Dare Elementary School team. They won the Battle of the Books match against Seaford Elementary. Not pictured is team member Susie Martin.
Dennis Tennant/Daily Press

Each team member didn't have to read all 21 books, but the team as a whole was expected to have a working knowledge of each book, says Sherry Inabinet, event coordinator.

Alice Bostrom, librarian at Dare Elementary School, asked the questions while Celestia Brown, Seaford Elementary School librarian, kept score.

The event, which was sponsored by Newport News Public Library, is designed to stimulate interest in reading, provide an alternative to athletic competition and expose children to quality literature.

The 21 required reading books were chosen by the staff at

Williamsburg Regional Library. The staff also wrote the competition questions which asked names of characters, why events happened, what happened and when and where certain events took place.

A new buzzer board donated by the Friends of the York County Public Library to the York County Public Library allowed students to signal they had the answers.

All county schools were invited to participate in Battle of the Books.

A separate competition is held in each city or county for students in grades six through eight.

Seaford was the only York

BOOK LIST

■ Following is the list of books the students were asked to read:

"Glass Slippers Give You Blisters"
"Search for Delicious"
"The Indian in the Cupboard"
"Not Just Anybody Family"
"The BFG"
"Half Magic"
"The Half a Moon Inn"
"13 Ways to Sink a Sub"
"A Haunting in Williamsburg"

"Nobody's Orphan"
"Number the Stars"
"Journey to Jo'Burg"
"The Solomon System"
"Great Gilly Hopkins"
"The Kid in the Red Jacket"
"How to Eat Fried Worms"
"The Trouble on Janus"
"The Gold Cadillac/The Friendship"
"Snot Stew"
"The Dollhouse Murders"

school that wanted to participate so its team of Joanna Sheehan, Brendyn Ward, Katie Franklin and Liz Hutchinson will repre-

sent the county at the regional event for sixth- through eighth-graders at 7 p.m. on Friday at the Williamsburg Regional